

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the shutter assembly comprises a plurality of modular elongate member units, each adapted to mount a single shutter blade. Support for this amendment is found at least in the original specification at page 15, line 1 to page 16, line 5, and in the Figs. 12-16(b) of the drawings. Claim 1, along with claims 8 and 12, have been amended to address rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 3 has been amended for consistency with claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended for wording consistent with the remaining depending claims. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 through 12 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, relative to claim 1 the Examiner has stated that the phraseology “engageable to like elongate member units” and “the compact boss whereby to pivot” is not readily understood. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that each elongate unit is engageable with identical elongate member units. Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that rotational motion of the compact boss in turn causes rotation of the shutter blade. Further, relative to claim 8 the Examiner has stated that the phraseology “the modular unit to adjacent like member units” is not readily understood. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that each modular elongate member unit is engageable with identical modular elongate member units. Still further, relative to claim 12, the Examiner has stated that the phraseology “or the like” is indefinite. Claim 12 has been amended to delete the phrase “or the like”. The Examiner has noted antecedent basis issues relative to claims 1 and 3. Claims 1 and 10 had been amended to address antecedent basis issues. Amendment of claim 1 has addressed the antecedent basis issue relative to claim 3.

With the foregoing amendments Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 through 12 are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1 through 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,499,255 (Givoni). The Examiner asserts that Givoni discloses the features cited in claims 1-12. The rejections of claims 1-12 are respectfully traversed.

Referring in particular to Figs. 1 and 15, Givoni discloses a panel assembly including a plurality of tubular cells 4. A light blocking member 6 is rotatively disposed in at least some of the cells 4. The light blocking members 6 are rotatively supported at their ends between lower and upper portions 72 and 72', respectively, of a split wall. The split wall is captured between a lower member 12 and an upper member 12'. The split wall lower and upper portions 72, 72' and the lower and upper members 12, 12' each support a plurality of light blocking members 6.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*,

... a plurality of modular elongate member units, **each modular unit adapted to mount a single shutter blade** and including:

a support for a compact boss adapted to be engaged to the shutter blade, whereby rotation of the compact boss causes rotation of the shutter blade

wherein each elongate member unit is stackable and engageable to identical elongate member units to form an assembled elongate member; ... (emphasis added)

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that each modular unit is adapted to mount a single shutter blade. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 15, line 1 to page 16, line 5, and in Figs. 12-16(b) of the drawings.

Givoni fails to disclose a shutter assembly having a plurality of modular elongate member units, each supporting a single shutter blade, wherein the modular elongate units are stackable and engageable with one another to form an assembled elongate member. The split wall lower and upper portions 72, 72' and the lower member 12 and the upper member 12' of Givoni each support **a plurality** of light locking members 6.

As Givoni fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, along with claims 2-12 depending from claim 1, are not anticipated by Givoni, and request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-22, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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